

OLD TIMERS REUNION



Aug. 30 — Sep. 3

2018 OTR Summer E-Blast

Hey there, Ladies and Gentlemen, my fellow Cavers... I'm talkin' especially to all you **Caver Freaks!**

It's Summer 2018 and that means that **The 69th Annual Old Timers Reunion** is just around the corner! I want you to know that your OTR Planning Krewe has been as busy as a steam-powered mechanical bat, since even before last year's OTR was finished, working hard to make 2018 even bigger and better! Every year since 1950, cavers have gathered in the hills of West Virginia to go caving, socialize, meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. This year's event promises to be no different!

New in 2018 is a streamlined **online registration process** that you can complete while you're en-route to the site or even while waiting in line for the event to begin!

All of the **OTR Caver Contests** will have bigger prizes; and there's a brand new overall **Grotto Participation Prize** (\$250-bucks CASH –that's a lot of beer!) that's truly worth seeking, if not just for the bragging rights! That's not to mention the Sunday night Awards Ceremony, where we honor selected OTR Caver Contestants and TRA folks (*--we promise to keep it brief!*). Bring a lawnchair, and stick around afterwards for the music of **Buzz City!**

The new **Event Tent** attraction was well-received in 2017, and this year's schedule already is filling-up with interesting presentations, discussions and activities about caves and caving-related topics. We've upgraded to provide a brand new tent with improved seat-

ing, lighting and a sound system, and it's sure to please after a stroll down **Vendor's Row** past all the cave and caver-related items available for your perusal, consideration, procurement and acquisition.

Once again, located at the end of Vendor's Row near the Event Tent will be a **Cave/Activity Trip bulletin board** for individuals and grottos to announce caving and other planned trips. Please consider announcing your trip at this site and invite fellow cavers to join you! Insurance does not allow OTR to have Event-sponsored trips, so I need your help in organizing and sharing cave trips. Go caving, take a stranger and make a new friend!

The **shower houses** continue to see improvements in plumbing and traffic flow patterns. This year, you'll see a new covered area in between the shower houses where you can gather before or after you clean up, or where you also can simply meet a new friend and decide to shower together (*--saving gallons of water!*)

We had so many donations to our winter **Coat Drive** in 2017 that I've been asked to do it again this year. The Coat Drive is a great way to again show the local community that we cavers care about 'this little spot in the hills' year-round, not just over four days in the Fall when we're here. For every new or gently used coat donated (child-sized to adult), you'll be entered into a drawing for a **free admission** to the 2019 Old Timers Reunion!

OTR is known as being the caver fest with the best (and most plentiful) **live music –on three different stages**. The entertainment at this year's event will be fantastic, as usual.

Our Friday night headliner is legendary blues band **The Nighthawks**. On Saturday, we're throwing a **Masked Steampunk Ball**, featuring the ska gypsy punk music of **Black Masala**. You're invited to create your best Steampunk costume

and join the festivities. In true Steampunk fashion, I also have added a 6:30pm performance by **The Tinderbox Circus Sideshow**, an entertaining troop of burlesques who include a **real sword-swallower** and performers with names like **Darron von Awesome** and **Trashique d’Lamour**.

Bring your lawnchairs (and non-glass containers) for Sunday’s **River Party** with **The Johnny Staats Project**, featuring one of the most amazing mandolin players in the country! Among the OTR swag available for the occasion, we’re offering new silicone stemless wine glasses and stainless steel pint glasses with the OTR logo (--quantities limited, so get yours online in advance as they may be sold out by the time of the event).

Following the Sunday evening **Awards Ceremony**, the popular caver band **Buzz City** will mount another group performance under the Pavilion to raise funds for OTR medical supplies and equipment. It’s the **8th Annual ‘Band-Aid’**.

Rounding out the entertainment will be caver **Grateful Gary**, playing solo acoustic Thursday evening on the Pavilion stage, the crowd favorite all-caver **Shanty Irish** band on Friday afternoon at Cooters, and other performances by caver keyboardist/vocalist **Maddie Brookover** and **Piano Ken**. Plus, you just never know when someone may sit down to play some music anywhere in camp (*Gary usually plays late-night Grateful Dead music over at the Scum Ridge campfire*).

If that’s not enough, don’t forget that OTR has the biggest and most-awesome adults-only **hot tub and sauna area**... giant 5-foot-deep hot tub, a ‘cold tub’, steam room, two saunas, giant campfire pit with sanitized bench seating, river access and even a (naked) volleyball area.

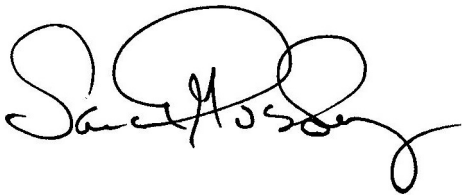
Weather permitting, Movies will be shown at the **Crawl-In Theatre**, starting at dusk. Stroll by and see what’s playing!

This year’s **OTR theme**: CaverFreak, CavePunk or just Steampunk, promises to take us back (or forward?) to the Retro-Victorian age of corsets, top hats, steam-driven technology and surprises behind every mask and ruffle! **Steampunk** is all about creating retro-futuristic and fantastical nostalgia. Water pistols made to look like vintage ray guns, Steam-powered animation, clocks and time machines.

To the many creative folks out there, I challenge you to create the most ‘SteamPunk’ **beer tap handle** you can put together! It must be handmade (*not purchased*) and actually function to pour beer. Handles will be rotated between Brew Crew and Cooters for display, merriment, **bragging rights** and mayhap a token of my esteem!

Our advice for getting your hands on official **OTR Steampunk merch items** is to order in advance. T-shirts (*cotton/poly as well as a ‘performance’ all-synthetic*) and embroidered hats (*both traditional and military style*) are available **online only**, and you must order them by August 1! Everything else, like the silicone stemless wine glass, stainless steel pint glass, commemorative collector pin, lanyard and bottle opener/key chain, will be available while supplies last!

If you’ve ever attended OTR, you know what’s in store, except even **MORE** and **BETTER** this year. If you’ve never been here and only heard about the event, I promise you’ll be so very glad if you make the decision to join us this year. Contests, prizes, live music, beer, caver vendors, food, parade, giant nightly bonfire, zip-lining, meeting new caver friends from all over the country... so much fun that **you may not be able to do everything in one 4-day weekend**. So don’t miss out --get your costume ready for the Masked Steampunk Ball, don your goggles, top hats and corsets, and plan on joining us for the **largest, most historic and amenity-filled social gathering in Caverdom** this Labor Day weekend —The 2018 Old Timers Reunion! Keep checking OTR.org, because pre-registration opens soon!



Sarah Mosberg

2018 Old Timers Reunion, Chair

